FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Date: December 2, 2002

MEDIA CONTACTS: MEMA—601-960-9039 or 601-953-3622

FEMA—662-329-7570

Crisis Counseling Available for Tornado Survivors

COLUMBUS, MS—Mississippi residents needing assistance in their recovery following the November tornadoes may seek crisis counseling, thanks to a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The grant provides crisis counseling and outreach services to individuals and families in the designated counties. These services also will be available at schools and for other groups as requested.

Crisis counseling helps people deal with normal reactions caused or aggravated by a disaster. It offers simple steps to help individuals, including stress management techniques for adults and children.

Anyone affected by the tornado who lives in any of the disaster-designated counties looking for available resources, emotional support or stress management may call the county health services Project Recovery number at 662-769-3441, 24 hours a day until further notice.

Outreach staff also is available at the Disaster Recovery Center located in the former Lowe's Home Supply at 2320 Highway 45 North in Columbus. The center is open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. until further notice.